AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 24 and 25 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A descriptor propagation system comprising:

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first descriptor associated with a first content granularity; and

a descriptor propagation device that propagates the first descriptor to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity, and wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the first descriptor without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

wherein the descriptor propagation device generates a propagation function based upon the first descriptor and the first content granularity, and

wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the first descriptor based upon the propagation function and the first descriptor.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a repository that stores the first descriptor associated with the first content granularity.

4. (Previously Presented) A descriptor mapping system, comprising:

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first descriptor at a first content granularity;

an information repository that stores a mapping function; and

a descriptor propagation device that propagates the first descriptor to a second content granularity which is finer than the first content granularity based upon the first descriptor and the mapping function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a descriptor mapping device that generates another mapping function based upon the first descriptor and the first content granularity, and that stores the second mapping function in the information repository.

7. (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a repository that stores the first descriptor associated with a first content granularity.

8. (Previously Presented) A descriptor classification system, comprising:

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first content that includes a first descriptor at a first content granularity; and

a descriptor propagation device that propagates content that includes the first descriptor to a second content granularity

wherein the second content granularity is finer than the first content granularity, and

wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the content without prior data regarding the content at the second content granularity.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a descriptor classification device that generates a classification function based upon the first content, and

wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the content based upon the classification function and the first content at the first content granularity.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for propagating descriptors, comprising:

analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein analyzing the first content to determine the propagation function comprises extracting features from the first content.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for mapping descriptors, comprising:

mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the mapping function is stored in an information repository.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising analyzing the first descriptor to generate another mapping function.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for classifying descriptors comprising:

generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

accepting a second content granularity that does not include a descriptor; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

17. (Previously Presented) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of propagating descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for propagating the first descriptor to the second content at a second

content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

18. (Previously Presented) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of mapping descriptors, comprising:

instructions for mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

instructions for propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

19. (Original) The medium of claim 18, wherein the second descriptor is different than the first descriptor and is stored in an information repository.

20. (Previously Presented) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of classifying descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for propagating the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification

function without data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for propagating descriptors, said method comprising:

analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for mapping descriptors, said method comprising:

mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said

computing system combine to perform a method for classifying descriptors, said method comprising:

generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

24. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said descriptor propagation device processes a video image along with annotations at the first content granularity and propagates the annotations to the second content granularity.

25. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said descriptor propagation device processes a video image, including a plurality of regions having the second content granularity, along with annotations at the first content granularity and propagates each of the annotations to one of the plurality of regions.